

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 940

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

---

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR COLEMAN.

Pre-filed December 11, 2003, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

3088S.02I

---

## AN ACT

To repeal section 570.223, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to identity theft, with penalty provisions.

---

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 570.223, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 570.223 and 570.224, to read as follows:

570.223. 1. A person commits the crime of identity theft if he **or she** knowingly and with the intent to deceive or defraud obtains, possesses, [transfers,] uses, or attempts to obtain, [transfer] or use, one or more means of identification not lawfully issued for his use.

2. [Identity theft is punishable by up to six months in jail for the first offense; up to one year in jail for the second offense; and one to five years imprisonment for the third or subsequent offense.] **As used in this section, the term "means of identification" includes, but is not limited to, the following:**

- (1) Social Security numbers;
- (2) Drivers license numbers;
- (3) Checking account numbers;
- (4) Savings account numbers;
- (5) Credit card numbers;
- (6) Debit card numbers;
- (7) Personal identification (PIN) code;
- (8) Electronic identification numbers;
- (9) Digital signatures;
- (10) Any other numbers or information that can be used to access a person's

**EXPLANATION**—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

**financial resources;**

- (11) Biometric data;**
- (12) Fingerprints;**
- (13) Passwords; or**
- (14) Parent's legal surname prior to marriage.**

**3. A person found guilty of identity theft shall be punished as follows:**

**(1) Identity theft which results in the theft or appropriation of credit, money, goods, services, or other property not exceeding five hundred dollars in value is a class A misdemeanor;**

**(2) Identity theft which results in the theft or appropriation of credit, money, goods, services, or other property exceeding five hundred dollars but not exceeding one thousand dollars in value is a class D felony;**

**(3) Identity theft which results in the theft or appropriation of credit, money, goods, services, or other property exceeding one thousand dollars but not exceeding ten thousand dollars in value is a class C felony;**

**(4) Identity theft which results in the theft or appropriation of credit, money, goods, services, or other property exceeding ten thousand dollars but not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars in value is a class B felony;**

**(5) Identity theft which results in the theft or appropriation of credit, money, goods, services, or other property exceeding one hundred thousand dollars in value is a class A felony.**

**4. In addition to the provisions of subsection [2] 3 of this section, the court may order that the defendant make restitution to any victim of the offense. Restitution may include payment for any costs, including attorney fees, incurred by the victim:**

- (1) In clearing the credit history or credit rating of the victim; and**
- (2) In connection with any civil or administrative proceeding to satisfy any debt, lien, or other obligation of the victim arising from the actions of the defendant.**

**5. (1) In addition to the criminal penalties in subsections 3 and 4 of this section, any person who commits an act made unlawful by subsection 1 of this section shall be liable to the person to whom the identifying information belonged for civil damages which do not exceed five thousand dollars for each incident, or three times the amount of actual damages, if any, sustained by the victim, whichever amount is greater. A victim of identity theft as set forth in subsection 1 of this section may also institute a civil action to enjoin and restrain future acts that would constitute a violation of subsection 1 of this section. The court, in an action brought pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, may award reasonable attorneys' fees to the prevailing party;**

- (2) If the identifying information of a deceased person is used in a manner**

made unlawful by subsection 1 of this section, the deceased person's estate shall have the right to recover damages pursuant to this subsection;

(3) Civil action under this section does not depend on whether or not a criminal prosecution has been or will be instituted for the acts that are the subject of the civil action. The rights and remedies provided by this section are in addition to any other rights or remedies provided by law.

6. The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

(1) A person who obtains the identity of another person to misrepresent his age for the sole purpose of obtaining alcoholic beverages, tobacco, entering a gaming establishment, or another privilege denied to minors;

(2) A person who lawfully obtains credit information in the course of a bona fide consumer or commercial transaction;

(3) A person who lawfully exercises, in good faith, a security interest or a right of offset by a creditor or financial institution; or

(4) A person who lawfully complies, in good faith, with any warrant, court order, levy, garnishment, attachment, or other judicial or administrative order, decree, or directive, when the party is required to do so.

7. Every person who has previously pled guilty or been found guilty of identity theft, and who subsequently pleads guilty or is found guilty of a separate incident of identity theft of credit, money, goods, services, or other property not exceeding five hundred dollars is guilty of a class D felony and shall be punished accordingly.

8. (1) Pursuant to the provisions of this section, the value of property or services is the highest value of the property or services by any reasonable standard at the time the identity theft is committed. Any reasonable standard includes, but is not limited to, market value within the community, actual value, or replacement value;

(2) If credit, property, or services are obtained by two or more acts from the same person or location, or from different persons by two or more acts which occur in approximately the same location or time period so that the identity thefts are attributable to a single scheme, plan, or conspiracy, the acts may be considered as a single identity theft and the value may be the total value of all credit, property, and services involved.

9. In a proceeding under this section, venue will be proper in any county where the person whose means of identification or financial information was appropriated resides, or in which any part of the offense took place, regardless of whether the defendant was ever actually in that locality. Civil actions pursuant to this section must be brought within three years from the date on which the

identity of the wrongdoer was discovered or reasonably should have been discovered.

570.224. 1. A person commits the crime of trafficking in stolen identities when he or she manufactures, sells, transfers, purchases, or possesses with the intent to manufacture, sell, transfer, or purchase, identification documents or identifying information for the purpose of committing identity theft.

2. Possession of five or more identification documents of the same person, or possession of identifying information of five or more separate persons, shall be evidence that the identities are possessed with the intent to manufacture, sell, transfer, or purchase identification documents or identifying information for the purpose of committing identity theft. In determining possession of five or more identification documents of the same person, or possession of identifying information of five or more separate persons for the purposes of evidence pursuant to this subsection, the following do not apply:

- (1) The possession of his or her own identification documents;
- (2) The possession of the identification documents of a person who has consented to the person at issue possessing his or her identification documents.

3. Trafficking of stolen identities is a class B felony.

**T**

Bill

Copy